Air Transport Association ata OF AMERICA

Daniel Z. Henkin
Vice President—Public Relations

1709 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
Phone (202) 872-4173

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIRLINE PASSENGER TRAFFIC UP 7.5 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 13.5 PER CENT IN FIRST NINE MONTHS

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 18 -- Domestic and international scheduled airline traffic increased 7.5 per cent in September compared with September, 1978, and was up 13.5 per cent through the first nine months of 1979, the Air Transport Association reported today.

In domestic service, revenue passenger miles increased 6.5 per cent from September of last year. Passenger load factor for the month was 56.9 per cent, compared with 58.6 per cent last year. Available seat miles flown increased 9.7 per cent.

In international service, revenue passenger miles in September increased 10.9 per cent from 1978. Passenger load factor was 66.8 per cent, compared with 68.0 per cent last year. Available seat miles increased 12.9 per cent from September 1978.

Passenger load factor for the U.S. airlines, domestic and international, was 58.8 per cent, compared with 60.3 per cent in September last year, while available seat miles increased 10.3 per cent.

Load factor for the U.S. scheduled airlines during the first nine months of 1979 was 64.8 per cent compared to 62.8 for the same period of 1978. Available seat miles increased 9.9 per cent.

****

#62 10/18/79

PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS
U.S. SCHEDULED AIRLINE INDUSTRY

	Domestic Trunks	+	Local Service/ Regional	=	Total Domestic	+	International	=	TOTAL
REVENUE PASSENGER MILES FLOWN (000)									
Sept. 1979	14,169,097		1,696,425		15,865,522		4,478,309		20,343,831
Sept. 1978	13,215,773		1,676,025		14,891,798		4,036,426		18,928,224
% Change	+7.2		+1.2		+6.5		+10.9		+7.5
9 Months 1979	137,936,457		18,697,953		156,634,410		37,001,524		193,635,934
9 Months 1978	123,764,720		14,876,353		138,641,073		31,997,223		170,638,296
% Change	+11.5		+25.7		+13.0		+15.6		+13.5
AVAILABLE SEAT MILES FLOWN (000)									
Sept. 1979	24,801,725		3,092,271		27,893,996		6,703,887		34,597,883
Sept. 1978	22,510,583		2,921,369		25,431,952		5,939,700		31,371,652
% Change	+10.2		+5.9		+9.7		+12.9		+10.3
9 Months 1979	211,892,207		30,247,119		242,139,326		56,456,480		298,595,806
9 Months 1978	198,423,531		24,721,677		223,145,208		48,440,734		271,585,942
% Change	+6.8		+22.4		+8.5		+16.5		+9.9
PASSENGER LOAD FACTOR (Per Cent)									
Sept. 1979	57.1		54.9		56.9		66.8		58.8
Sept. 1978	58.7		57.4		58.6		68.0		60.3
9 Months 1979	65.1		61.8		64.7		65.5		64.8
9 Months 1978	62.4		60.2		62.1		66.1		62.8

Carriers included: Air California, Air Florida, Air New England, Allegheny, American, Braniff International, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Frontier, Hughes Airwest, National, North Central, Northwest, Ozark, Pan American, Piedmont, PSA-Pacific Southwest, Southern, Texas International, Trans World, United and Western.

Northwest data is not included in international figures.